



Congressman Jon Porter

Veterans Update

March 2004

"It is the bravery and courage of our veterans that has protected our nation from foreign invaders and brought democracy to the far reaches of the world."

Did you know?

- **Nevada is home to more than 240,000 veterans**

Porter Report - Veterans



As your Representative in Congress, I am proud to represent the Third Congressional District, one of the fastest growing regions in the United States.

This past month I have been busy working on several issues important to our state, including continuing our fight against Yucca Mountain and working to ensure the safety of those who use our nation's airlines to travel across the county and throughout the world. I have

also been active in fighting for the rights of veterans here in Nevada by working to secure a veterans hospital in Las Vegas.

I am happy to offer this newsletter to veterans in Southern Nevada. Should you require additional information on issues important to you, please contact me anytime.

Porter Praises VA Commitment for New Vegas Veterans Hospital



On February 20, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Commission on Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) released its final report on the status of VA facilities.

I was encouraged by the release of the CARES report which provides a commitment to ensure that the health needs of Nevada's veterans

are met. Nevada has one of the fastest growing veteran populations in the country, with more than 240,000 veterans currently living in our state. It is imperative that we have the facilities to provide for them.

I have worked diligently with our entire Congressional delegation since the start of my service in Congress to see a Veterans Hospital in Las Vegas become a reality. The release of the CARES report brought news of a promise for a full service medical facility for our veterans that is long overdue. We can never do enough for those who have sacrificed to defend our nation.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Anthony Principi, and with the rest of Nevada's Congressional delegation to ensure that the needs of our veterans are met and that Las Vegas receives the Veterans Hospital we have been working so hard to acquire.

Operation Recognition: Veterans Eligible for High School Diplomas



I would like to take the opportunity to make veterans in Southern Nevada aware of a new program entitled "Operation Recognition" available through the State of Nevada Office of Veterans Services. Veterans who joined the military or were drafted from September 16, 1940 through May 7, 1975 and did not complete high school are now eligible to apply for a high school diploma. Applications

may be submitted by a veteran, the guardian of a disabled veteran, or a member of a deceased veteran's family on behalf of that veteran.

I am proud to support this fine program and will do my best to assist any eligible veterans gain their richly deserved recognition.

For more information on submitting an application please contact my office in Henderson at 702-387-4941. Operation Recognition applications are also posted online on the Nevada Department of Education website at www.nde.state.nv.us and on the Office of Veteran's Service website at www.state.nv.us/veterans.

Porter Supports Improving Survivor Benefit Plan



Recently I have been contacted by many veterans regarding legislation to improve the Survivor Benefit Plan. As you may know, the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) was created in 1972 to provide benefits to the surviving dependents of a deceased member or retiree of the uniformed services.

In order to improve the benefits offered by the Survivor Benefit Plan, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of HR 3763, the Military Survivor Benefits

Improvement Act of 2004. This legislation would eliminate the reduction in SBP payments that currently adversely impacts survivors who are age 62 and older.

I have the deepest respect for the men and women who have served our nation in the Armed Services, risking their lives and facing the dangers of combat to protect our freedoms. It is important that we provide for the families of these brave men and women once they have passed on.

Contact Me

Should you require additional information regarding veterans' issues, if you would like to inform me of your views, or if you require assistance with Veterans Affairs claims, please contact me anytime in either my Henderson, NV or Washington, DC offices.

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